(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) how Government contemplates to enhance their representation both in High Courts and in the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government has, however, addressed letters to the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time impressing upon them the need to locate persons from the Bar, belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and from amongst women, who may be suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Changes in Muslim personal law

1923. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Justice A.R. Lakshmanan Committee has criticized the trend of polygamy in muslim society and found it gravely faulty and in conflict with Islamic law in letter and spirit;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning to effect changes in the muslim personal law; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The 18th Law Commission headed by Justice A.R. Lakshmanan in its 227th Report on 'Preventing Bigamy via Conversion to Islam — A proposal for giving Statutory Effect to Supreme Court Rulings' has observed that traditional understanding of the Muslim law on bigamy is gravely faulty and conflicts with the true Islamic law in letter and spirit. The said Report is available on the website of the Law Commission http://www.lawcommissionofindia.nic.in. Since the subject matter of the said Report falls under List-III Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, comments/views of the State Governments and Union territory Administrations are solicited.

Review of outdated laws

1924. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has nearly 2000 archaic laws of old vintage but nearly two-thirds of them have not been used even once during the last sixty years;